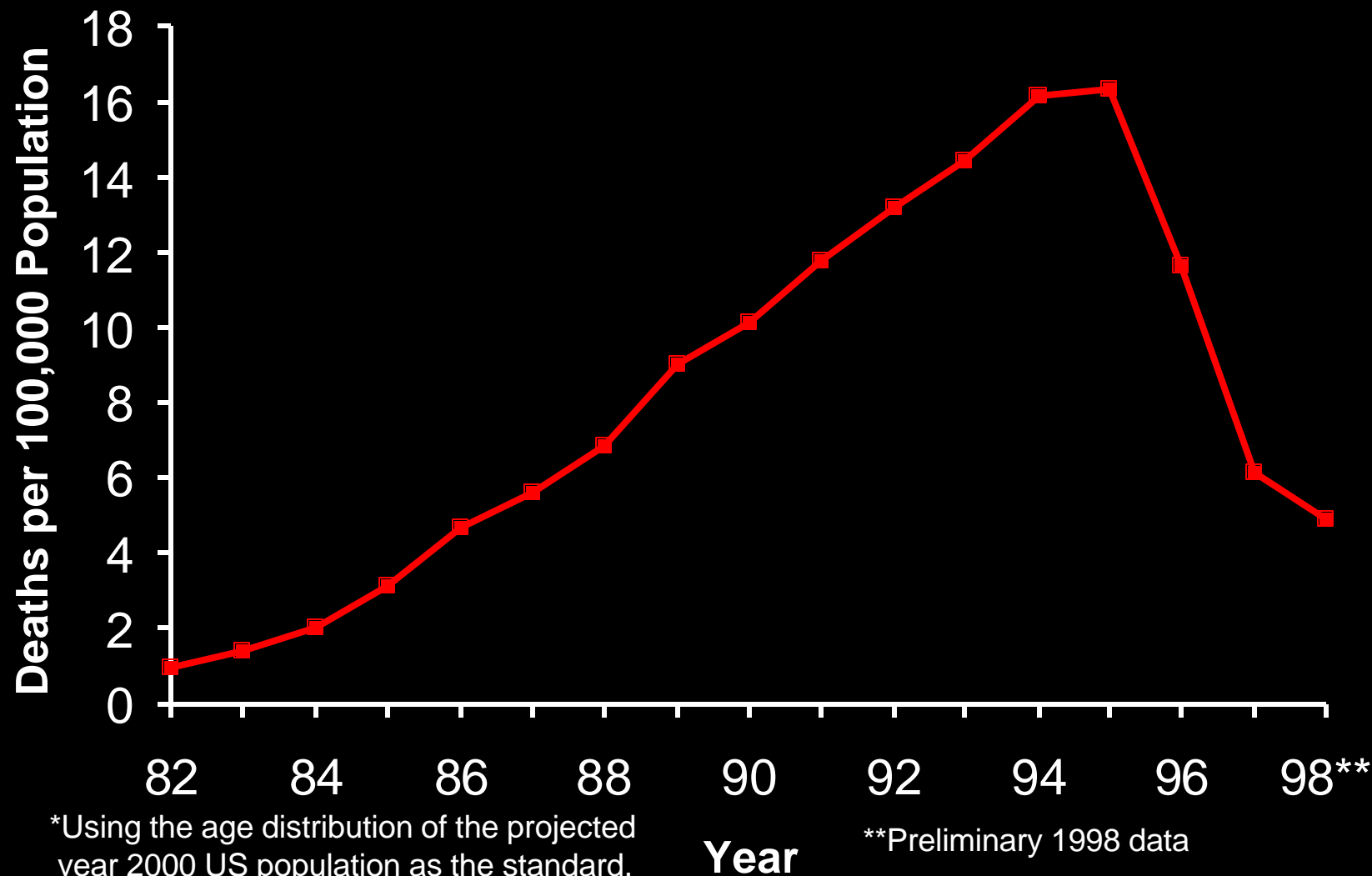


## Trends in Age-Adjusted\* Rates of Death due to HIV Infection, USA, 1982-1998



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The trends in the age-adjusted rate of death due to HIV infection show an almost linearly increasing rate from 1984 through 1994, and a sharply decreasing rate after the maximum of about 16 deaths per 100,000 population in 1995. The rate in 1998, about 5 deaths per 100,000 population, was lower than the rate in 1987. The rate of decrease slowed, however, between 1997 and 1998. The age-adjusted HIV death rate decreased 29% in 1996, 48% in 1997, and about 21% in 1998.

The decrease in the rate after 1995 was probably mainly due to improved antiretroviral therapy. Prophylactic medications against opportunistic infections and the prevention of HIV infection may also have played roles in this decrease.

To eliminate the effect on the death rate of changes in the age distribution of the population, the rates shown here have been adjusted to appear as though the population in every year had the same age distribution as that projected for the population in the year 2000, which will become the Public Health Service's official standard for age-adjustment beginning with the 1999 data year.